

Cm. - made in 1771

England - Parliament. - Bills. - II

[Bill ordered 18 Feb. 1771.]



A

DRAFT of a BILL

P R O P O S E D

For Establishing Houses of Industry for the
Maintenance and Employment of the Poor
within the County of *Norfolk*.



WHEREAS the Poor in the County of *Norfolk* are Preamble.

very numerous, and the present Method of maintaining them very burthensome and expensive, and that they might be much better provided for, and at a less Expence, if proper Houses were provided for their Reception, where they might be employed

and maintained:

May it therefore please your MAJESTY,

That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted, by the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That every

A

Person

The Qualification of a Director of the Poor.

The Qualification of a Guardian of the Poor.

Penalty on Persons acting as Directors or Guardians who are not qualified.

Person seised in his own Right; or in Right of his Wife, of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments of the yearly Value of *One hundred Pounds*, lying within any District which shall be incorporated by virtue of this Act, or who shall reside within such District, and shall have an Estate of the like Value within any other Part of the County of *Norfolk*, shall be qualified to be elected a Director of the Poor within such District; and every Person seised in his own Right, or in Right of his Wife, of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments of the yearly Value of *Fifty Pounds*, within any District which shall be incorporated by virtue of this Act, or who shall occupy Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within such District, of the yearly Value of *One hundred Pounds*, shall be qualified to be elected a Guardian of the Poor within such District; and in case any Person not duly qualified to act as a Director or Guardian according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall nevertheless presume to act as such, every such Person shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding *Five Pounds*, not less than *Forty Shillings*; and every Person prosecuted for acting without such Qualification shall prove that he has such Qualification as aforesaid, or otherwise shall pay the said Penalty, without any other Proof or Evidence on the Part of the Prosecutor than that such Person hath acted as a Director or Guardian, as the Case shall be.

After 1 June 1772 any 5 Persons qualified to be Directors may give Notice of a Meeting for taking the Sense of the Gentlemen for incorporating any District.

And be it further Enacted, That from and after the *First Day of June One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy-two*, if any *Five Persons* qualified to be Directors as aforesaid shall be desirous that any District shall be incorporated for the Purposes of this Act, such Persons may at any Time or Times cause Notice to be given of a General Meeting to be holden of Persons qualified to be Directors and Guardians within such District as shall be expressed in such Notices; and the Notices shall also mention the Time and Place for holding the Meeting; and such Notices shall be affixed upon the Church Door of every Parish within the District proposed to be incorporated; and shall also be published *Eight Times* in some of the *London Newspapers*, and *Four Times* successively in the *Norwich Newspapers* before the Time appointed for holding any such Meeting; and no Meeting for the Purposes aforesaid shall be held before *Ten* of the Clock in the Forenoon, nor after *Three* of the Clock in the Afternoon; and all such Meetings shall be at some convenient Place as near the Center of the District intended to be incorporated as may be; and the Persons assembled at such Meetings shall, before they proceed to Business, choose a proper Person to preside as their Chairman; and the said Persons who caused Notice to be given of such Meeting shall provide two Books, and shall produce the same at the Meeting,



Meeting, in One of which shall be entered the Names of Persons qualified to be Directors, and in the other the Names of the Persons qualified to be Guardians, within such District, who shall then, either in Person, or by Letter under their Hands, signify their Assent or Dissent to the incorporating such District; all which Entries shall be made in the said Books by such Person or Persons as the Chairman shall appoint for that Purpose; which said Books, after the Entries so made, shall be left in Custody of the Chairman, who is hereby required, within *Three Days* after such Meeting, to transmit the same to the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of *Norfolk*, to be lodged amongst the Records of the County; all which Books shall and may be perused at all seasonable Times by any Person qualified to be a Director or Guardian for such District, who may likewise take Copies thereof, or of any Part thereof, paying for every such Perusal the Sum of *One Shilling*, and also *One Shilling per Sheet*, for each Copy, reckoning *Seventy-two Words* to each Sheet; and all such Books shall, when required, be produced by the said Clerk of the Peace at the Sessions, and the same shall be allowed to be read in Evidence: And if it shall appear that *Three Fourths* in Number of the Persons qualified to be Directors, and a *Majority* of the Persons qualified to be Guardians, agreeable to the Directions of this Act, were willing, and did at such Meeting, either in Person, or by Letter addressed to the Chairman of such Meeting, give their Consent that such District should be incorporated, such District shall be from thenceforth incorporated for the several Purposes of this Act.

And if *Three Fourths* of the Persons qualified to be Directors, and a Majority qualified to be Guardians for such District are consenting, then the District is to be incorporated.

Provided always, That if any *Five* Persons qualified to be Directors or Guardians within such District, shall think that *Three Fourths* of the Persons qualified to be Directors, and a *Majority* of Persons qualified to be Guardians, within such District, did not consent that such District should be incorporated, they may appeal to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held at the Castle of *Norwich*, in the Shire-house there, for the said County of *Norfolk*, or at any Adjournment thereof, if such District is situated in any Division where the Quarter Sessions are held by Adjournment: But in case the General Quarter Sessions shall be held within *Fourteen Days* of such Meeting, then the Persons shall be at Liberty to appeal to the next or subsequent General Quarter Sessions or Adjournment thereof as aforesaid, giving Notice thereof in Writing at least *Ten Days* before the Time of bringing such Appeal to the Chairman of such Meeting, or to any *Five* of the Persons who were present at such Meeting, and who were consenting to such District's being incorporated; and if upon hearing the Appeal it shall appear to the Justices in Session, that at such Meeting more than *One*

But any *Five* Persons qualified to be Directors or Guardians may appeal to the Quarter Sessions against such District's being incorporated.

And if upon such Appeal it appears

Fourth

that a sufficient Number of Persons were not consenting, that District cannot be incorporated within Three Years.

Fourth Part of the Persons qualified to be Directors, and a Majority of Persons qualified to be Guardians within such District, did dissent from such Incorporation, then the Justices shall confirm the Appeal, and the District shall not be incorporated, nor shall any Meeting be held for that Purpose within *Three Years* from the Time such Appeal shall be so confirmed; but if no Appeal shall be duly entered at such Session, or, if entered, shall not be prosecuted within the Time aforesaid, or shall be discharged by the Justices in open Court, then such District shall be deemed to be incorporated, and the Justices then present shall make an Order of Court declaring such District to be an incorporated District; all which Appeals as aforesaid the said Justices are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to hear and finally determine.

For holding Meetings for electing Directors.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That within *One Calendar Month* next after any District shall be incorporated, any *Five* or more Persons, qualified to be Directors for the same District, shall cause Notice to be given in the *Norwich News-Papers* of the Time for a Meeting of all Persons qualified to be Directors for such District, at least *Fourteen Days* before such Meeting; which Meeting shall be held at the same Town or Place where the First Meeting was held for incorporating such District, and the Persons who shall be then present, and qualified to be Directors for that District, or the *major Part* of them, shall, in the First Place, choose a Chairman, and shall then elect amongst themselves *Twenty-three* other Persons, who, together with the Chairman, shall be Directors of the Poor for that District: But if there shall not appear at such Meeting *Twenty-four* Persons qualified to act as Directors, then they shall choose so many as shall appear; and if there shall not be present *Sixteen* Persons qualified to be Directors, then the said Directors shall elect and add such Number of the most able and discreet Persons qualified to be Guardians within such District as shall, with the Directors present, make up the Number *Sixteen*; and such last-mentioned Persons shall be and continue Directors, until their Places can be supplied by Persons qualified to be Directors within such District.

Provided always, That such Persons, so elected to be Directors out of the Persons qualified to be Guardians, shall not incur any Penalty for acting as Directors, although they shall not have such Qualification as the Directors are required to have by this Act.

Directors may appoint Officers and allow them Salaries;

And be it further Enacted, That in such Districts where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, any *Thirteen* or more of them,

them, and in such Districts where only *Sixteen* Directors shall be elected, then any *Nine* or more of them, shall and may at any Meeting appoint a Treasurer and Clerk, and such other Officers as they shall think proper for carrying this Act into Execution, and shall give such Salaries, and make such Allowances to all such Officers, and to all other Persons who shall be employed by them for the Purposes of this Act, as they shall think fit, and may remove and displace all such Officers from time to time, as they shall think proper, and appoint others in their Stead; and shall also take such Security from their Treasurers or other Officers for the due Execution of their respective Offices, as they shall think proper; provided that the Security for a Treasurer be not less than the whole Amount of the Poor's Rates within such District for One Year.

and may remove such Officers, and take Security from their Treasurer,

And be it further Enacted, That the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, for any District where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, and any *Nine* or more of them, where only *Sixteen* Directors shall be elected, shall and are hereby authorized and empowered at their First, or at any other Meeting or Meetings, to borrow and take up at Interest such Sum or Sums of Money as they may think necessary for the Purpose of this Act; all which Sums of Money so to be borrowed shall be charged and chargeable upon the Rates and Assessments hereafter to be made, subject to the Limitations, Provisions, and Directions herein after prescribed for borrowing Money.

and may borrow Money.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, in any District where the Number of Directors is *Twenty-four*, and any *Nine* or more of them, where the Number is *Sixteen*, shall and they are hereby respectively empowered and required, as soon as conveniently may be, to contract for the Purchase in Fee-simple of any Quantity of Land not exceeding *One hundred Acres*, with or without Buildings thereon, lying within such incorporated Districts as aforesaid, which they shall think most proper and convenient for building a House of Industry for the Reception and Employment of the Poor, and such other Buildings as they shall think necessary for the Purposes of this Act, or may contract for any waste or common Grounds with the respective Lords or Ladies of the Manors, the Copyhold Tenants, Commoners, or Persons interested therein, and to pay for such Lands or Buildings out of the Money to be raised or borrowed by virtue of this Act.

Directors may purchase Lands, Houses, &c.

And the
Lands and
Buildings so
purchased
shall not be
assessed for
any Improve-
ment.

Provided always, That in all future Rates and Assessments to be made for any Parish or Place wherein any Lands, Grounds, or Buildings which shall be so purchased shall be situate, such Lands, Grounds, or Buildings shall not be assessed at a higher Value, or at a greater improved Rent than the same were assessed at when such Purchase was made, notwithstanding any Buildings or Improvements shall be made thereon.

Directors to
build Houses
of Industry
in a plain du-
rable Man-
ner, and fur-
nish the same.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority-aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, in the District where the Number of Directors is *Twenty-four*, and any *Nine* or more of them, where the Number is *Sixteen*, shall and they are hereby required, as soon as conveniently may be after such Purchase or Purchases shall have been completed, to build, erect, fit up, or repair, or cause to be built, erected, fitted up, or repaired, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Lands or Grounds so to be purchased, One or more convenient House or Houses of Industry, and other Buildings for the Reception and Employment of the Poor belonging to such District, and for other the necessary Purposes of this Act; and shall, within *Three* Calendar Months next after such Houses or Buildings shall be finished, provide and furnish the same with all necessary Furniture, Household Goods, and Utensils, and defray the Expences of building such House or Houses, and of fitting up and furnishing the same, and all other Expences relative thereto, out of any Money which shall be raised, borrowed, or received by virtue of this Act.

Directors to
appoint Com-
mittees of
themselves to
transact Bu-
siness.

And for the more easy and speedy carrying the Purposes of this Act into Execution, **Be it further Enacted,** by the Authority-aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, in the District where the Number of Directors is *Twenty-four*, and any *Nine* or more of them, where the Number is only *Sixteen*, shall, at any Meeting to be held for that Purpose, nominate and appoint any *Five* or more of their own Body to be a Committee to direct or superintend the Works carrying on for the Purposes aforesaid, until the same shall be finished; and such Committee shall cause all their Proceedings to be entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose; and they or any *Three* or more of them shall and may at any Meeting, by an Order under their Hands, direct any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treasurer of the District wherein they shall be appointed for the Purposes of this Act; and such Order shall be a sufficient Discharge to the Treasurer for so much Money by him paid in pursuance of such Orders.

And

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, for any District where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, and any *Nine* or more of them, where only *Sixteen* shall be elected, shall have full Power and Authority from time to time to make such Bye-laws, Rules, and Orders as they shall think fit, for better governing the Poor within the District for which they are Directors, and for the carrying on any Trade or Manufacture within or about such House or Houses for the Employment of the said Poor under their Care and Management, and for all other the Purposes of this Act, and shall and may from time to time repeal, alter, or amend all such Bye-laws, Rules, and Orders as to them the said Directors shall seem proper.

And the Directors may make Bye-laws and Orders for carrying this Act into Execution;

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, for any District where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, and any *Nine* or more of them, where only *Sixteen* Directors shall be elected, from time to time to borrow and take up at Interest any Sum or Sums of Money which they shall think fit for the Purposes of this Act within their respective Districts, so that the Interest to be paid for the same shall not exceed the Sum laid out and expended for the Relief of the Poor within such District for any One Quarter in the Year; and from time to time to assign over the Poor's Rates to be collected within such District, as a Security for the Re-payment of the Principal and Interest of the Money so to be borrowed, the Charges of such Assignments to be paid out of the Monies to be raised by the said Rates; and every Person to whom any such Assignments shall be made, or who shall be entitled to the Money thereby secured, is hereby impowered from time to time, by Assignment under his or her Hand, in the Presence of *Two* or more credible Witnesses, to be indorsed on the Back of his or her Security, to assign or transfer his or her Right to the Principal and Interest Money thereby secured to any other Person, in Words to the following Effect:

and may borrow Money for the Purposes of this Act;

and may assign the Poor's Rates to pay the Interest of the Money borrowed.

Persons may transfer their Assignments.

I Do hereby transfer all my Right, Property, and Interest to the within mentioned Sum of

All which Assignments shall, within *One Calendar Month* after the Date thereof, be produced and notified to the Clerk to the said Directors, who shall cause an Entry to be made of such Assignment, containing the Date, Names of the Parties and Witnesses, and of the

Clerk's Fee.

the Sums of Money thereby mentioned to be assigned or transferred; in the Books directed to be kept for entering the said original Assignments; and for each of such Entries the said Clerk shall be paid the Sum of *Two Shillings and Sixpence*, and no more; and all Persons to whom any such Assignments shall be made shall be, in Proportion to the Sum or Sums therein mentioned, Creditors on the said Rates equally one with another, and shall have no Preference in respect to the Priority of advancing such Money.

Directors
may make
Assessments
to defray the
Expences of
carrying the
Act into Execution.

Assessments
to be delivered
to the
Clerk of the
Peace.

And for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed for the Purposes of this Act, and for defraying all Expences of carrying the Act into Execution, **Be it further Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said Yearly and General Quarterly Meetings the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, in the District where the Number of Directors is *Twenty-four*, and any *Nine* or more of them, where the Number is only *Sixteen*, shall and may and they are hereby impowered to assess, with as much Equality as may be, such Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates herein after mentioned, upon the several Parishes and Places within every District which shall be so incorporated, as they shall judge necessary for paying the Interest due on the Sums of Money which shall be borrowed by the said Directors as aforesaid within their respective Districts, and for and towards paying off and discharging such principal Debts as shall be due and owing on the Credit of this Act within such Districts; all which Assessments shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held as aforesaid, and being allowed by the Justices of the Peace assembled at such Sessions, or at any Adjournment thereof (for which the said Clerk of the Peace shall be paid the Sum of *Ten Shillings and Sixpence* for every Assessment so to be assessed and allowed) the said Directors for the District where such Assessment shall be made, or any *Three* or more of them, are hereby impowered, by an Order under their Hands and Seals, to direct the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the several Parishes and Places within such District to pay, at some particular Time and Place to be specified in such Order, the Sum so assessed upon such Parishes and Places respectively, to the Treasurers of the said Directors for the Time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge to such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor; and such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall and are hereby authorized and required from time to time to raise, by equal Taxation upon every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, and others, and

and upon every Occupier of Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and Premises within their respective Parishes and Places within such Districts respectively, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such Parishes and Places by the said Directors; all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said respective Parishes and Places wherein such Sums of Money shall be so assessed or received, shall be answerable, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which in that Case is hereby directed to be made by the Directors assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting; and such Taxes and Assessments, and also such Re-assessments, shall be assessed, levied, and recovered in such and the like Manner as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be levied and recovered, and with the same Power of Appeal to Persons aggrieved.

Deficiencies
to be re-
assessed,

and to be le-
vied as the
Poor's Rates.

Provided always, That the Sums to be assessed by the said Directors at their General Quarterly Meetings upon any Parish or Place within any such District shall not exceed, in any One Year, the Sum which shall have been expended, disbursed, and laid out for the Relief of the Poor in such Parish or Place in One Year, upon a Medium of *Ten* Years, from *Easter* next ensuing the incorporating any such District to *Easter* following.

Assessments
not to exceed
the former
Rates upon a
Medium of
10 Years.

And be it further Enacted, That if any *Five* or more Inhabitants of any Parish or Place within any incorporated District shall think the Sum of Money assessed upon such Parish or Place unequal, with respect to the Sum assessed upon any other Parish or Place within the same District, such Persons may, within *Three* Months next after the Time such Assessments shall have been delivered to the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy as aforesaid, appeal against such Inequality to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the said County of *Norfolk*, or at any Adjournment thereof as aforesaid; but if such Quarter Sessions shall be holden within *Fourteen* Days next after such Assessment shall have been delivered to the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy as aforesaid, then the Persons intending to appeal shall be at Liberty to appeal to the next or subsequent General Quarter Sessions or Adjournment thereof as aforesaid, giving Notice thereof in Writing, at least *Ten* Days before the Time of bringing such Appeal, to any *Two* of the Directors who were present when such Assessment was made, or to their Clerk or Treasurer for the Time being; and if upon hearing any such Appeal it shall appear to the Justices in Session that too large a Proportion of Money is assessed upon such Parish or Place, such Justices are hereby au-

Persons may
appeal
against the In-
equality of
the Rates;

and the Jus-
tices in Session
may ascertain
the Propor-
tion of the
Money to be
raised.

authorized to ascertain and determine the Proportion of the Money to be assessed and raised within such Parishes and Places; and the Proportions so ascertained and determined by such Justices shall not be varied or altered for the Space of *Five* Years then next ensuing; and the Proportions of the Assessments so ascertained and determined shall be recorded by the said Clerk of the Peace, and all Persons may inspect and peruse the same, and take Copies or Extracts thereof, paying the like Fees as are hereby authorized to be taken for the Inspection, Perusal, and Copies of any Books or Papers in his Custody.

Houses, &c.
usually rated
to the Poor's
Rate to con-
tinue charge-
able.

Provided always, That such Houses, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, as now are and usually have been charged and rated to the Poor's Rates in any of the Parishes and Places within the Districts which shall be incorporated by virtue of this Act, shall continue to be charged and rated as formerly, although such Houses or Lands do not lie within the District so incorporated; and that all such Houses, Lands, and Hereditaments, as have been usually charged and rated to the Poor as aforesaid, shall be and be deemed as Part of such Districts for the Purposes of this Act only; any Custom or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding: And any Parish or extra-parochial Place not lying within any incorporated District, but which hath been usually rated for the Relief of the Poor of any Parish or Place within such District, shall be deemed to be within such District for the Purposes of this Act, but for no other Purpose whatsoever.

Extra-paro-
chial Places
to be rated.

Payments out
of Poor's
Rates for
other Pur-
poses may be
raised by
Church-
wardens.

Provided nebertheless, and it is hereby Declared, That this Act shall not extend to prevent the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for any of the Parishes or Places within any such District from assessing and raising any Sum or Sums of Money to make any Payment or Payments directed and required by any Law in being to be made out of the Poor's Rates, but all such Sums shall and may be assessed and raised for such Purposes, over and above the Sums assessed by the said Directors, and shall be accounted for in the same Manner as they were before the Passing of this Act.

Overseers of
the Poor to
attend the Di-
rectors upon
Notice, with
the Books
and Assess-
ment for 10
Years past.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them for each Parish or Place within any District which shall be so incorporated, shall, and they are hereby required from time to time, upon Notice in Writing signed by any One or more of the Directors for such District being delivered to them respectively, or left at their Place or Places of Abode, at least *Two* Days before the First or any other

other Meeting of the said Directors, to attend all such Meetings with the Books in which the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor have been entered for *Ten Years* from *Easter* next ensuing the incorporating any such District; and where no such Books shall be kept, then with the original Rates, and shall leave in the Custody of the Clerk to the said Directors such Books or Rates, together with an Account of all such other Sums of Money not included in the said Rates as shall have been expended within that Period by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of such Parishes or Places, for the Relief or upon Account of the Poor; and the said Clerk shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts to the said Directors, to the End that they may examine the same, in order to ascertain the Proportions to be observed in assessing the several Sums to be raised within the several Parishes and Places within such Districts; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts to the said Churchwardens and Overseers, whenever they shall be demanded, after the Expiration of *Forty Days* from the Receipt thereof; and in case all or any of such Accounts or original Rates shall not be produced at such First Meeting as before directed, such Directors may notwithstanding assess all such Parishes and Places at their Discretion, but in as equal a Proportion with other Parishes or Places near or adjoining thereto as can be done, Regard being had to the Value of such Parishes or Places, and to the Number of the Poor usually maintained there.

Books, &c. to
be returned
to the
Church-
wardens.

And be it further Enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes and Places within any incorporated District shall from time to time and at all Times hereafter aid and assist the said Directors to the best of their Power, and shall at all Times obey any Order signed by any *Five* or more of the said Directors relative to the Execution of this Act within any such District; and in case any such Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so assessed in any Parish or Place as they ought to do, or to pay at the Time and Place appointed any Monies which they shall have collected and levied, or to obey any Order or Orders of the said Directors, or any *Five* or more of them, every such Churchwarden or Overseer so offending shall be summoned, by Writing under the Hands of any *Two* Directors, to appear before the said Directors at any Meeting which shall be expressed in such Summons; and if any such Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor so summoned shall refuse or neglect to appear at any such Meeting or Meetings, or if appearing shall not sufficiently excuse or justify himself, the Directors then present,

Parish Officers to assist
the Directors
in the Execution
of this
Act,

or

and neglect-
ing to appear
to be fined.

or any *Five* or more of them, may fine any such Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor for such Neglect or Refusal, in any Sum not exceeding *Five Pounds*; all which Fines shall be levied, recovered, and applied in Manner herein after mentioned.

Directors
neglecting to
hold Quarter-
ly Meetings
to make
Rates,

Two Justices
may cause
them to be
made;

and if they
neglect the
Churchwar-
dens are to
raise the Mo-
ney.

And be it further Enacted, That if the said Directors shall neglect or refuse to hold any such Quarterly or Annual Meetings, or if there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Directors at any of such Quarterly or Annual Meetings to make such Rates as shall be necessary to be made for the Purposes of this Act within any incorporated District, such Rates may be ordered to be made by any *Two* Justices of the Peace of the said County, although they are not qualified to act as Directors for such District; and in case no such Order shall be made by such Justices within *One Calendar Month* from the Time such Quarterly Meetings should have been held, the same Proportion shall be rated, assessed, and raised, in each Parish or Place within such District, by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing Quarter, as was raised therein for the preceding Quarter, and the Money arising thereby shall be paid to the Treasurer of such District, in such Manner as is herein before-mentioned with respect to any Money which shall have been assessed by the said Directors within such District.

Directors to
give Notice
of a Meeting
for electing
Guardians.

And for the better carrying the good Purposes of this Act into Execution, **Be it further Enacted,** by the Authority aforesaid, That as soon as any House or Houses shall be built and fit for the Reception of the Poor belonging to any such District as aforesaid, the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, for any District where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, and any *Nine* or more of them, where only *Sixteen* shall be elected, shall and are hereby required to cause publick Notice to be given in the *Norwich* Newspapers that a Meeting will be held at such Time and Place within such District as shall be expressed in such Notice, for electing Persons to act as Guardians to be assisting to the said Directors in the Execution of this Act; at which Meeting all Persons qualified to be Guardians within such District may, if they think fit, attend; and such Persons shall and are hereby authorized and empowered to elect by Ballot, by a Majority of Votes, amongst themselves, such Number of Persons to be Guardians of the Poor within such District as shall be equal to the Number of Directors chosen for such District; and the said Directors and Guardians so chosen as aforesaid shall be authorized to put this Act in Execution.

And

And be it further Enacted, That immediately after any District shall be incorporated as aforesaid, all Persons qualified to be Directors and Guardians within the same District shall be and are hereby declared to be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have perpetual Succession and a Common Seal, and shall be called *The Directors and Guardians of the Poor for the District of* [specifying the same] *in the County of Norfolk*; and by that Name shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued in all Courts and Places within that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, and by that Name shall and may purchase, take, and receive any Goods and Chattels whatsoever to or for the Use of the said Corporation; and all Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments already purchased, and to be purchased and built by the Directors in pursuance of this Act, shall and are hereby declared to be vested in the said Corporation for the Purposes of this Act.

Directors and Guardians to be a Corporation.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Directors and Guardians shall, at every Meeting for carrying this Act into Execution, bear their own Expences.

Directors and Guardians to bear their own Expences.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That *Four General Quarterly Meetings* shall be held in each Year by the Directors and Guardians within every District incorporated as aforesaid, at all which Meetings not less than *Four Directors* shall be present, One of which Meetings shall be held on *Monday* next after the Feast of *Saint John the Baptist* in every Year; and such Meetings shall be held at such convenient Places within the District so incorporated as the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, shall direct.

Directors and Guardians to hold General and Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That at every Meeting which shall be held annually on *Monday* next after the Feast of *Saint John the Baptist* as aforesaid, the Directors who shall be then present shall fill up any Vacancies that may have happened amongst themselves; and the Guardians then present shall proceed in Manner before directed to choose again *Twenty-four* Guardians, *Eight* of which at least shall not have been elected in the preceding Year; which said Directors, together with the Guardians so chosen, shall be the Directors and Guardians for the Year then ensuing; and the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, shall at every Quarterly Meeting examine and audit the

For electing Directors and Guardians;

and the Treasurers Accounts to be audited.

D

Accounts

And

Accounts of the Treasurer and other Officers, and shall examine and sign an Inventory of the Furniture, Household Goods, and Utensils in such House or Houses as shall be provided or built for the Poor as aforesaid.

Directors and Guardians to choose a select Number amongst themselves for managing the Business for each Quarter of the Year;

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, shall at their Annual Meetings, or at any other Meetings to be held for that Purpose, appoint *Twelve* Persons out of the Directors and Guardians (*Four* whereof at the least shall be Directors) for each Quarter of the succeeding Year; and such Persons so appointed shall and may inspect, direct, manage, and provide for the Poor in the said House or Houses, and they, or any *Three* or more of them (whereof a Director always to be *One*) together with the Clerk, shall, during the Quarter for which they shall act as aforesaid, meet at the said House or Houses every *Monday Morning*, or oftener, if it shall be necessary, and shall and may give such Orders and Directions as they shall think proper for the Employment and Management of the Poor in such House or Houses, and for carrying into due Execution all such Rules and Orders as shall from time to time be made and established for the Care of the Poor within such House or Houses; and the said *Twelve* Directors and Guardians, to be appointed as aforesaid for each Quarter, may by Agreement divide themselves into Committees of *Four* Persons to act for each Month in such Quarters; but such Division shall not preclude any of the *Twelve* from being present and acting at any such Weekly or other Meetings as aforesaid.

and these Persons so chosen may divide themselves into Committees for each Month.

Time for holding Meetings of the Directors and Guardians to be fixed at the First General Meeting.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Weekly Committees and the General Quarterly Meetings, as also the Day for holding the First Annual Meeting, shall be fixed by the Directors and Guardians at the First General Meeting to be holden after the Guardians shall have been elected within any incorporated District as aforesaid, and so from Year to Year, the said Days shall always be fixed at the First Annual Meeting in every Year for the Year ensuing; and all such Meetings shall be directed to be held either at the said House or Houses, or at some other convenient Place within such Districts respectively.

Accounts of Directors and Guardians to be settled at General Quarterly Meetings,

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That at such General Quarterly Meetings the said *Twelve* Directors and Guardians shall from time to time settle their Accounts for the preceding

preceding Quarter, and cause the same to be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy at the next General Quarter Sessions for the said County of *Norfolk*, or at some Adjournment thereof to be held for the Division wherein such District shall lie; and the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy is hereby required to lay the same before the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions or Adjournment thereof, to be by them examined; for which a Fee of *Ten Shillings and Six Pence*, and no more, shall be paid to the said Clerk of the Peace: And if upon Examination or Complaint it shall appear that such Accounts are not just, such Justices may authorize and empower any *One* or more Justice or Justices for the said County to examine the same, and to report the Matter to them at the next Quarter Sessions, and such Justices in the said Sessions are hereby authorized to pass and finally determine the same.

and laid before the Justices at the Quarter Sessions.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Annual Accounts, and also all Orders, shall be examined and signed at an Annual Meeting by a *Majority* of the Directors then present; and all Quarterly Accounts shall always be examined and signed by *Four* Directors at least, as likewise every Order passed at such Meetings; and no Contract or Order for the Payment of any Sum of Money exceeding *Thirty Pounds* shall be made at any other Meeting than an Annual or Quarterly Meeting, unless where only *Four* Directors at least are present, and consent thereto.

Directing how Annual and Quarterly Accounts shall be signed, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That all voluntary Gifts and Contributions which well-disposed and charitable Persons shall think proper to make towards carrying on the good Purposes hereby intended, shall be paid to the Treasurer for the District for which the same was given, and shall be applied and disposed of by the Directors and Guardians for the Benefit of the Poor within such District; and a List of the Names of such Donors and Contributors, and an Account of the Sums by them contributed, shall be affixed in the most conspicuous Part of the said Houses of Industry.

Contributions to be paid to the Treasurer and applied by the Directors, &c.

Lists of Contributors and Sums to be fixed up in the Houses, &c.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That after the Poor shall be under the Government of the said Directors and Guardians, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting or Meetings as aforesaid, to grant Certificates under the Common Seal of the Corporation to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish or Place within such District, and who shall be willing to

Directors and Guardians may grant Certificates of Settlements to the Poor who are willing to remove.

to remove, or who shall have removed out of the said District; all which Certificates, being attested by their Clerk, and signed by *Two* Justices of the Peace for the said County, shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes, and no other Certificates than as aforesaid shall be granted within any such District; any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Directors, &c.
to relieve in-
dustrious
Poor;

And whereas there may be industrious poor Persons within such Districts as may be incorporated, who do not belong to the Houses of Industry, and to whom it may be proper to give some small Assistance towards the Maintenance of themselves and their Families; **Be it therefore Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, from time to time (if they think fit) to relieve such industrious poor Persons or Families within the District incorporated, without receiving them into such House or Houses; and the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, may from time to time cause any Person who shall be found wandering and begging within any of the Parishes or Places within their respective Districts to be sent to the House or Houses of Industry within such Districts, there to be kept and employed for so long Time as they shall order and direct; and in case of Misbehaviour in any such Person, he or she may be punished in like Manner as any other poor Person maintained within any such House or Houses can or may be punished for Misbehaviour, or such Person may be passed as a Vagrant to his or her Place of Birth, or other legal Settlement, if the same can be found.

and may
take up wan-
dering Poor.

Certificates in
the Custody
of Parochial
Officers to be
delivered to
the Clerk of
the Corpo-
ration.

And be it further Enacted, That as soon as the Directors and Guardians shall be elected for any District as aforesaid, all Certificates which have been delivered to and then remain in the Custody of the Parochial Officers within such District, shall be delivered by them forthwith to the Clerk to the said Directors and Guardians; and all such Certificates which hereafter shall be delivered to the respective Parochial Officers as aforesaid for any such District, shall also be from time to time delivered within the Space of *Fourteen* Days after the Receipt thereof by such Officers to the Clerk to the said Directors and Guardians, who shall cause the same to be filed, so that Recourse may be had thereto at all future Times; and all Bonds which shall have been given to Parochial Officers to indemnify any Parishes or Places, on account of any Bastard Children, shall be delivered by such Officers to the said Directors and Guardians; and it shall and may be lawful for such Directors and Guardians, or any

Bonds for in-
demnifying
Parishes from
Bastard Chil-
dren to be
delivered to
the Directors
and Guar-
dians.

any *Five* or more of them, to sue on such Bonds in their own Names, and they shall recover the Penalties thereof, as if such Bonds had been made to them; and all Bonds, on account of any such Children, which shall be given to the said Directors and Guardians for any District as aforesaid, shall be made to the said Directors and Guardians of the Poor for such District respectively.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors, or any *Thirteen* or more of them, for any District where *Twenty-four* Directors shall be elected, and any *Nine* or more of them, where only *Sixteen* Directors shall be elected, at any General Quarterly Meeting to appoint a proper Person or Persons to be a Governor or Steward, or Governors or Stewards, to oversee and inspect the Persons so maintained in such Houses; and also a proper Person or Persons to be Matron or Matrons to superintend the Poor in all such Houses; and such Governors or Stewards shall have the Care and Management of all such Poor, and shall from time to time make Reports of their Behaviour to the Directors and Guardians to be elected in pursuance of this Act; and such Number of Directors as aforesaid may also from time to time, at any General Quarterly Meeting, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of *England* to instruct such poor Persons as shall be maintained in such House or Houses in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechism, and also to baptize the Children, visit the Sick, bury the Dead, and perform other Offices of his Function in such House or Houses; and the said Governor or Steward shall *Once* at least in every Week hear the Children repeat the Catechism; and such Number of Directors as aforesaid may also give such Salaries, and make such other Allowances to every such Clergyman, Governor, or Steward, and Matron, within their Districts, as to such Directors shall appear reasonable; and shall and may pay such Salaries and Allowances out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act.

For appoint-
ing a Govern-
or, Master,
and Clergy-
man,

and making
them Allow-
ances.

And be it further Enacted, That if any poor Person maintained in any such Houses shall be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, or of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour, or shall neglect or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he, she, or they shall be required to do, or shall be any ways remiss therein (such Work or Service being suited to his, her, or their Age, Strength, and Ability) every such Offender, if a Child under the Age of *Twelve* Years, shall and may be punished by moderate Correction, or by an Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet, for any Time not exceeding *Twenty-four* Hours; or if such Offender shall be above the Age of *Twelve* Years, then either

For punish-
ing such poor
Persons as
shall mis-
behave.

E

by

by *Abatement of Diet, or Disfiniten in Dress and Diet as aforesaid, or by being set in the Stocks to be provided for that Purpose for any Time not exceeding Twelve Hours, without any other Diet during that Time than Bread and Water*: All which Punishments may be inflicted by Order of the *major Part* of the Directors and Guardians who shall be present at any Weekly Meetings; or it shall and may be lawful for any *Five* or more of the said Directors and Guardians to complain to any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace against such poor Persons so guilty as aforesaid, and such Justice or Justices may *commit* such poor Person or Persons to any House of Correction within the said County for any Space of Time not exceeding *One Month*; and it shall be lawful for any One of the Directors to give an Order in Writing to authorize the Governor of the said House or Houses, or any other Person, to apprehend and carry any such Offender before One or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of *Norfolk*.

For punishing
Persons who
shall continue
to misbehave.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Person or Persons, above the Age of *Twenty Years*, in any such House or Houses, after being punished either for Misbehaviour, or for neglecting or refusing to do and perform such Work or Service which he, she, or they ought to have done and performed, shall again misbehave, or continue obstinately to refuse to do and perform such Work or Service as aforesaid (*such Work or Service being suited to their Strength and Ability*) it shall and may be lawful for the Directors and Guardians present at any Weekly Meeting to cause such Person to be sent to some Justice of the Peace for the said County of *Norfolk*; and such Justice is hereby authorized and required to *commit* such Person to the House of Correction, there to be kept till the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the said County; and the Justices at such Sessions are hereby authorized to hear and determine such Complaint as shall be made against such Person, and if they shall adjudge the Complaint to be true, such Offender shall be *deemed an incorrigible Rogue, and may be punished as such by Order of such Justices*.

Punishing
Persons pur-
loining Ap-
parel, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That the Apparel for Cloathing all such poor Persons as aforesaid shall be deemed and taken to be the Property of the said respective Directors and Guardians for the District where such House or Houses shall be situated; and in case any poor Person maintained therein shall purloin, sell, or pawn any of the Materials or Implements of Work intrusted to them, or shall sell or pawn any of the Apparel with which they shall be cloathed, or shall absent himself or herself from such House or Houses with the Cloaths or Apparel belonging to the said Directors and Guardians,

dians, without the Leave of the *major Part* of the Directors and Guardians who shall be present at some *Weekly Meeting*, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, or any other Person by Direction of any Director or Guardian, to carry such Offender before any Justice of the Peace for the said County; and in case such Offender shall be convicted thereof before such Justice, either on his own Confession, or on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered and required to administer) such Justice may for the First Offence order any such Offender to be sent back to the said House from whence he was brought, and there to be *Once publickly whipped*: And if any such Person shall be convicted a Second Time of any such Offence, every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be *guilty of Felony*, and shall suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of *Petit Larceny* are liable to by the *Laws now in being*.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, receive into Pawn, or secrete any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel of any such poor Persons, or any of the Goods, Materials, or Implements belonging to the said Directors or Guardians, or shall buy or receive any of the Provisions allotted to or provided for such poor Persons, and shall be convicted thereof, either by his own Confession, or upon the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County (which Oath such Justice or Justices is and are hereby authorized and impowered to administer) every such Person or Persons shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of *Five Pounds*.

Punishing Persons receiving Goods, &c. belonging to the Governors.

And for encouraging the said Governor or Steward, and Matron, in the Discharge of their Duty, **Be it further Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That over and above the Salaries which they shall receive as aforesaid, the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, are hereby authorized and impowered, at any General Quarterly Meeting, to give them such Gratuities for their Care and Diligence in their respective Offices, as they shall judge proper and reasonable, so as no Gratuity to be given to any One Person at any such Meeting shall exceed the Sum of *Five Pounds*.

Encouragement to the Governor and Matron.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting, shall and are hereby authorized and impowered to make such Allowances to the industrious poor Persons maintained and employed in the said Houses as they shall think reasonable; all which

Encouragement to be given to industrious Poor.

which Allowances shall be applied for the Use of such poor Persons, in such Manner as the said Governor or Steward shall think proper.

Profits of the Labour of the Poor to be applied in Aid of the Rates.

And be it further Enacted, That the Profits of the Work of the said poor Persons (after deducting thereout such Allowances as are herein before directed to be deducted and made to them as afore-said) shall be applied in Aid of the Rates and Assessments to be made towards the Maintenance of the Poor within the House or Houses within the District where such Work shall be done.

Directors and Guardians may contract for maintaining and employing the Poor.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, shall and they are hereby impowered to contract and agree from time to time with any Person or Persons whomsoever for all Provisions and Necessaries for such House or Houses, and for the lodging, keeping, and maintaining all or any of the Poor belonging thereto; and may also (if they think fit) contract with any Person or Persons for employing all such poor Persons, upon such Terms, Conditions, and Regulations as any *Five* or more of the Directors and Guardians shall think proper, so as no such Contract be made for a longer Term than for *One Year* at any One Time.

Justices may proceed upon Complaint of Directors as if made by Churchwardens or Overseers.

And be it further Enacted, That any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace is and are hereby impowered to proceed on the Complaint of any Director or Guardian, or of the Governor or Steward of any such House, against any poor Person, in such Manner as if such Complaint was made by any Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor.

For paying the Expences of the Act.

And be it further Enacted, That all Charges and Expences incident to and attending the procuring and passing this Act shall be paid by the Treasurer of the said County of *Norfolk*, who is hereby required to pay the same within *One Month* next after the Passing of this Act, and the Justices of the Peace for the said County are hereby authorized to allow the same in the said Treasurer's Accounts.

How Questions shall be determined.

And be it further Enacted, That all Questions which shall be proposed at any Meeting or Meetings of the said Directors and Guardians, or of any Committees thereof, shall be determined by the Majority of Votes present at all such Meetings; and in case of any Equality of Votes, the Chairman to have the casting Vote.

And

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors into any House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act, such Person shall be subject and liable to such and the like *Pains and Penalties, and to be levied and recovered in such Manner,* as Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into any Prisons or Gaols of this Kingdom are subject and liable to by an Act made in the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second.

To prevent conveying Spirituous Liquors into the Houses.

And be it further Enacted, That all poor Persons incapable of providing for themselves within their respective Parishes and Places in the said County of *Norfolk*, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of their several Parishes and Places, until the House or Houses for the District within which such Parishes or Places shall be situated shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and that as soon as any such House or Houses shall be so built and fitted up, then all such poor Persons belonging to any Parish or Place within such District as are unable to maintain themselves shall, within *Three Calendar Months* next after such House or Houses shall be so built and fitted up, be received into the same, and shall be under the Government and Management of the Directors and Guardians for such District; and all poor Children, which at any Time shall be maintained by the said Directors and Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government, the Males until they attain the Age of *Eighteen* Years, and the Females until they attain the Age of *Sixteen* Years; and that after such Children shall have attained their respective Ages of *Eighteen* Years and *Sixteen* Years as aforesaid, they shall, if strong and healthy, be discharged from such House or Houses, and from the Government of the said Directors and Guardians.

Poor to remain under the Care of Churchwardens, &c. until a House is provided for their Reception.

And be it further Enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers within such District shall cause all such poor Persons within their respective Parishes and Places as are unable to maintain themselves to be sent to such House or Houses; and in case of any Doubt whether such poor Person or Persons do belong to any Parish or Place within such District, the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor may apply to any *Two* Justices of the Peace for the said County, who are hereby authorized and impowered to hear and determine the same.

As soon as the Houses are finished, the Poor to be sent into them.

And be it Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and Guardians, at any Annual, Quarterly, or Weekly Meeting

Children may be bound Apprentice by Directors and Guardians.

Meeting to be holden for the Purposes of this Act, by and with the Consent of any *Two* Justices of the Peace for the County of *Norfolk*, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices, for any Term not exceeding the Term of *Seven* Years (by Indentures without Stamps) and any such Male Child or Children may be bound Apprentices in the Sea-service to any Captain, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel, in like Manner as the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor (with the Assent of such *Two* Justices of the Peace) are by the Laws now in being empowered to do; provided that such Service or Apprenticeship shall not extend to such Males beyond the Age of *Twenty-one* Years, or to such Females beyond the Age of *Eighteen* Years; and the Persons to whom such Children shall be so bound Apprentices shall be obliged to receive and provide for such Apprentices, in like Manner as they now are obliged by Law to provide for other Apprentices; and no Apprentice so bound shall (except with the Consent of the Directors and Guardians present at some or one of their Meetings) be assigned or turned over to any Person whatsoever, and, with such Consent, only to One of the same Trade, Business, or Occupation; and all Persons to whom they shall be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them in the same Manner, and under the same *Penalties and Forfeitures*, as the Persons to whom they were first bound as aforesaid were obliged to receive and provide for them.

May be ap-
prenticed to
the Governor
or Steward;

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and Guardians, or any *Five* or more of them, at any of their Meetings, by and with the Consent of any *Two* Justices of the Peace for the said County of *Norfolk*, to bind any such Children Apprentices, for any Term not exceeding *Seven* Years, to the Governor or Steward for the Time being; provided that such Service or Apprenticeship shall not extend to the Males beyond the Age of *Twenty-one* Years, or to the Females beyond the Age of *Eighteen* Years; and on the Death, Resignation, or Removal of such Governor or Steward, such Apprentices so bound to the Governor or Steward shall belong and appertain to the succeeding Governor or Steward, without any formal Assignment being made to him of such Apprentices, and so from time to time to the Governor or Steward for the Time being, until the Expiration of the said Term of *Seven* Years for which such Children shall have been respectively bound; and such Children shall respectively serve the said Governor or Steward for the Time being as Apprentices until the End of the said Term, and shall during the said Term be considered as Apprentices to the said Governor and Steward for the Time being to all Intents and Purposes, in the same Manner as if they had been originally bound to every such Governor or Steward; and all such

such Children shall be provided for and maintained by the said Directors and Guardians during such their Apprenticeships, in the same Manner as other poor Children are to be provided for and maintained by virtue of this Act; and all Profits, Benefits, and Advantages arising from such Apprentices so bound to the said Governor or Steward shall be accounted for to the said Directors and Guardians, and shall be had, received, and taken by them, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

And be it further Enacted, That any *Five* or more of the said Directors and Guardians may, on Application made by any Farmer or other Person wanting a Number of such Children or other poor Persons in Harvest, Hop-gathering Time, or at any other Time or Times, to hire or let out such Number of the said Children, or other poor Persons, as shall be so required, for any Time not exceeding *One Year*, to do and perform such Work as shall be suitable to their Age and Strength, for such Wages or otherwise as shall be agreed for between the said Directors and Guardians, and the Person or Persons hiring such Children or other poor Persons; which Wages shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Directors and Guardians, and shall be by him accounted for and applied to the Purposes of this Act.

and in Harvest Time may be hired out to Work.

Provided always, That if the Parents, Kindred, or Friends of any Children maintained by the said Directors and Guardians as aforesaid shall either, when the said Children shall attain their said respective Ages of *Eighteen Years* and *Sixteen Years*, or at any Time before, be desirous or willing to receive, maintain, and employ such Children, and such Children shall be willing and able to be so received, maintained, and employed, it shall be lawful for the said Directors and Guardians to dismiss such Children from such House or Houses of Industry.

Children may be dismissed where Parents or Friends are willing to receive them.

And be it further Enacted, That no poor Child inhabiting out of any District which shall be incorporated as aforesaid, and who doth not legally belong to such District, shall be bound Apprentice to any Person residing within such District without the Licence and Consent of the Directors and Guardians of such District.

Children not to be apprenticed without Leave of the Directors.

And be it further Enacted, That the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of *Norfolk* are hereby authorized and empowered to act as Justices within the City of *Norwich* in all Cases relative to the Execution of this Act.

Justices of the County may act for the City of Norwich.

Contracts for
maintaining
the Poor to be
void after the
Houses are
built.

And be it further Enacted, That all Contracts made by any Parish Officers or Persons for providing and maintaining the Poor in any Parish or Place within any District which shall be incorporated as aforesaid, shall, as soon as any such House or Houses shall be built as aforesaid, and publick Notice given by Advertisement in one of the *Norwich* News-papers that the same are fit for the Reception of the Poor, be void and of no Effect.

Howall Fines,
Penalties, and
Forfeitures
are to be re-
covered.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures to be imposed or inflicted by virtue of this Act shall be levied by *Distress and Sale* of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County of *Norfolk*; all which Warrants such Justice or Justices are hereby impowered and required to grant upon the Confession of the Party or Parties, or upon the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath such Justices are hereby impowered to administer); and the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures, when recovered, shall be paid to the Treasurer to the Directors and Guardians of the Poor for the District where such Offender shall be convicted, to be by them applied towards the Relief of the Poor within such District; and in case sufficient *Distress* cannot be made, or that the Fines, Penalties, or Forfeitures shall not be forthwith paid, that then such Justice or Justices shall and may *commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months, or until such Fines, Penalties, or Forfeitures shall be paid.*

Limitation of
Actions.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within *Six Calendar Months* next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid and brought in the County of *Norfolk*, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in Pursuance and by the Authority of this Act; and if it shall appear so to be done, or that such Action or Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant or Defendants, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be Nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if upon Demurrer

General Issue.

Demurrer Judgment shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover *Treble Costs*, Treble Costs: and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That Publick Act. this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Publick Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.



A

DRAFT OF A BILL

PROPOSED

For Establishing Houses of Industry
for the Maintenance and Employ-
ment of the Poor within the
County of Norfolk.

[1771.]

M. P. Cross

Secy. of the House

8